The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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As the children now are, so will the sovereigns soon be.—Horace Mann.

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LABOR CONGRESS WILL PROVE HISTORIC

The Los Angeles convention of the A. F. of L. blazed new trails and the value of old ones was emphasized.

Action on the labor injunction was the most important. Because injunction judges can dictate the lives and liberties of citizens, the convention called for legislation that will re-establish the writ as originally used. Judges now issue these writs whenever so inclined. Under the new plan they will be stripped of this discretion.

The company "union" and the "yellow dog," both substitutes for the so-called "open" shop, were intelligently discussed and plans approved to combat these latter-day weapons of autocracy.

Communism and Fascism were placed in the same class, the campaign for the Federal Child Labor Amendment will be intensified, the five-day week was declared to be labor's goal and the A. F. of L. non-partisan political policy was reaffirmed. The convention refused to act as censor on text books hostile to trade union declarations. The delegates upheld the committee's plea for free speech and press and academic freedom in schools.

In the field of governmental international relations the convention insisted that when Americans invest in foreign countries they should be amenable to the laws of these countries, just as are foreigners when they invest in United States.

The convention rejected a charge that this country and Great Britain have massed a fleet of warships in the Far East to destroy the Chinese nationalistic movement. The convention warned State Federations of Labor and city central bodies against accepting such sweeping charges without investigation.

The scope of the deliberations was indicated by one of the fraternal delegates from the British Trades Union Congress, who said: "Your Federation has left no opportunity untouched to give us a taste of every phase of civic and industrial life in this great center."

The convention was not sensational. The delegates faced realities.

There was an absence of panaceas and short cuts. Every proposal revolved around the time-tested system of organization and education.

There was no uncertain tone in the convention declarations. The delegates were sure of their ground to a degree more emphatic than ever before.

The enthusiasm, harmony and unity made the convention doubly great. The decisions will inspire our unions to greater effort.

UNIONISTS REJECT CENSOR PLAN EVEN THOUGH OPPONENTS GAIN

Los Angeles, Oct. 22.—The A. F. of L. convention refused to censor publications that oppose views of organized labor.

"Baldly speaking," the committee said, "the proposal is that the A. F. of L. set itself up as a judge to determine not only what text books shall be permitted in the public schools, the state colleges and state universities, but also to even limit the use of books for reference purposes in such institutions in cases where such books are regarded as antagonistic to views held by the A. F. of L.

"This, we believe, would not only be a dangerous denial of free speech and free press, but would also be a very serious violation of the principle of academic freedom."

The convention was asked to favor debarment from tax - supported schools of all text books referred books prepared by the "Institute for Research in Land Economics and Public Utilities" of the Northwestern University in Chicago. The institute is directed by Prof. Richard T. Ely. It opposes taxation of land values and favors a sales tax.

"It is often extremely difficult to ascertain what is truth in a given case and the opportunity must always be left free for the statement of conflicting views and for the clash of opposing opinions. This is as essential in schools, colleges and universities for teachers and for pupils as in the everyday affairs of political life," the committee reported.

CHILD LABOR OPPONENTS GAIN

No opponent of child labor is fooled by the eleventh-hour "protection" to children that the National Association of Manufacturers announce.

The program of this organization is full of jokers. It would place 14-year-old boys in the mines, and limit child education to 14 years of age.

The value of the announcement is an acknowledgment that opponents of child labor are making progress. They are forcing child exploiters to invent alibis.

BORERS-FROM-WITHIN SQUEAL

A cable from Moscow states that 44 Communists are expelled from the party. They are carrying on "rebel propaganda" against the Central Communist Committee and are kicked out just as was Trotsky, a short time ago.

This is upheld by American Communists, who insist that their members can not hold divided allegiance and that the majority must rule.

When trade unionists take this position, the ousted Communists howl "bureaucracy" and whimper that free speech is outraged.

The Russian Communists have done what every other group do, although they squeal when they are subjected to a universal practice.

When men pledge to abide by the rules of an organization, and violate that pledge, they are doubly dishonest when they object to being penalized for traitorous conduct.

CANADIAN OLD-AGE PENSIONS APPROVED BY ONE PROVINCE

Vancouver, British Columbia, Oct. 22.—This province is the first to accept the Canadian old-age pensions act, which was passed by the Dominion Parliament in March, this year. Each province must accept the act before it becomes effective in that area. One-half of the pension is paid by the province and one-half by the Dominion.

The maximum yearly pension is $240, where the applicant has an income of $120 a year, but this is reduced by the amount of the income of the pensioner in excess of $125 a year, which means that the maximum income of the pensioner, including the pension, may not be more than $365 a year.

The applicant must be a British subject, must be 70 years old, have resided in Canada 20 years and five years in the province in which application is made.

"Income" for the purposes of the act means more than actual income received. Property of any description, whether producing returns or not, shall be considered as producing 5 per cent per year on its value. The effect of this is that a house valued at $2,500 has an income of $125 per year. This will permit payment of the maximum pension, but as the value passes the $2,500 mark the pension is reduced.

Pension is paid to both husband and wife. To discover the income of each the incomes of both are taxed and divided by two. In this way where both are living, a home or property valued up to $5,000 may be owned without interfering with the pension.

"Several details of the act are unsatisfactory to organized labor, but one big thing at this time," said Tom Moore, president of the Canadian Trades and Labor Congress, "is a definite acceptance by the government of Canada of joint responsibility with the provinces in aiding aged and needy. We consider this legislation one of the most important steps in the past decade."

FASCIST-COMMUNIST BOTH IN SAME CLASS

Los Angeles, Oct. 22.—"We place Lenine and Mussolini in the same class," declared President Green during a discussion on an anti-Fascist resolution at the A. F. of L. convention. The resolution was unanimously approved.

"Fascism and Communism each represent a dictatorship that is reprehensible to liberty," said President Green. "Both are autocratic in their influences and control. Mussolini is the concrete expression of Fascism. He represents that great movement now in control of Italy. He was not always a Fascist. At one time he was a workers' revolutionist. Men of that sort always swing from one extreme to the other."

President Green read extracts from German Communist and Italian Socialist papers where Mussolini, in 1910, then a "champion of the proletariat," approved terroristic methods and scorned "mudsill sympathy" for victims of these outrages.

"This one-sided sentimentality of many Socialists is due to the remnants of clerical catechists' teachings still living in their souls," Mussolini wrote. "Clericalism gave us this sickly sympathy of hysterical women with the rulers.

"Socialism, on the other hand, is a rough, raw thing, consisting of antitheses and acts of violence. Socialism is war. And war uses iron law, but pity in war! For they will be defeated."

OFFICERS RE-ELECTED WITHOUT ONE CONTEST

Los Angeles, Oct. 22.—President Green and the Executive Council were unanimously re-elected at the annual convention of the A. F. of L. These officials are:

President, William Green.

Secretary, Frank Morrison.

Treasurer, Daniel J. Tobin.

First Vice president, James Duncan; second vice president, John R. Alpine; third vice president, T. A. Rickert; fourth vice president, Jacob Fischer; fifth vice president, Matthew Woll; sixth vice president, Martin F. Ryan; seventh vice president, James Wilson; eighth vice president, James F. Noonan.

Michael F. Greene and W. B. Fitzgerald were unanimously chosen fraternal delegates to the British Trades Union Congress. The former is general president of the United Hatters of North America and the latter is first vice president of the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Employes of America.

Joseph W. Morton, first vice president of the International Brotherhood of Stationary Firemen and Oilers, was elected without opposition as fraternal delegate to the Canadian Trades and Labor Congress.

New Orleans was chosen as the next convention city.

HIGH COURT UPHOLDS MINERS' INJUNCTION

Washington, Oct. 22.—The United States Supreme Court refused to review 12 injunctions against union miners in West Virginia.

The effect of the refusal will give full force to the federal injunctions that were issued on request of several non-union mining companies. The miners sought to have the supreme court pass on the validity of these writs that also protect the "yellow dog" contract.

STRIKE-BUSTING JUDGE SIGNS SWEEPING WRIT

Pittsburgh, Pa., Oct. 22.—Federal Judge Schoonmaker has signed a remarkable injunction against striking miners employed by the Pittsburgh Terminal Coal Corporation.

The writ is a jumble of prohibitions against acts that are clearly illegal and acts that are sustained by the Constitution.

Throwing rocks or other missiles at strikebreakers—an undeniable infraction of criminal law—is joined with a command that "any act" that interferes with the production, mining and shipment of coal is contempt of court.

A single picket is permitted on each road "leading to the mines." No attempt is made to define this relative term, and the miners must depend upon the mood of the judge, rather than upon specific law, in the exercise of their rights.

The unionists are not permitted to have recourse to law when they are ordered to work for company houses. Heretofore a bonding company deposited security in the name of the miner, who appealed the case, but this practice has been prohibited and the miners must defend themselves, be thrown out on the highways.

Judge Schoonmaker graciously permits the miners to hold regular union meetings. They may also have social gatherings without offending one who has set himself above the law of the land.

Suit Against Coal Miners Ended; Anti-Labor Precedents Remain

Fort Smith, Ark., Oct. 22.—The $2,000,000 suit of the Coronado Coal Company and seven other concerns against union miners has been settled, after 13 years of litigation. Each side will pay their costs for numerous federal court trials.

It was this case that caused Chief Justice Taft of the United States Supreme Court to express regret that the evidence made it impossible to hold the international union of miners for damages.

The lower courts involved the international union, but it was shown that the international had no part in the strike. In eliminating the international union, and remanding the case back for trial, with the Arkansas district miners as defendants, Justice Taft made this extraordinary statement:

"The circumstances are such as to awaken regret that in our view of the federal jurisdiction we can not affirm the judgment. But it is of far higher importance that we should preserve inviolate the fundamental limitations in respect to the federal jurisdiction."

The original suit was an outgrowth of labor troubles in the Prairie Creek Valley coal fields of this State, following a contract violation and an attempt to install the non-union shop in 1914.

The federal district court here issued a restraint of $200,000 which were tripled, $25,000 fees for plaintiffs' attorneys and $120,600 interest. The court of appeals rejected the interest charges and affirmed the judgment in other respects. On appeal to the Supreme Court, the international union was eliminated and a new trial ordered. The court in this instance let it be known that incorporated unions are subject to suit under the anti-trust act. The court refused to accept the claim that elimination of 5,000 tons of coal a week is an interference with interstate commerce. After lower courts had again tried the case, the coal companies were granted a rehearing by the Supreme Court. In their petition the plaintiffs said they meant "5,000 tons of coal a day," rather than 5,000 tons "a week."

The case was before the Supreme Court twice, on both occasions the Arkansas miners losing, and before district and courts of appeals several times during the last 13 years.

PARDON FOR MOONEY REFERRED TO COUNCIL

Los Angeles, Oct. 22.—A resolution calling upon Governor Young of this State to pardon Thomas J. Mooney and Warren K. Billings was referred to the Executive Council by the A. F. of L. convention.

President Green and the council were authorized to use their best judgment to bring about the desired end. In urging the pardons, A. F. of L. affiliates are asked to be guided by methods suggested by the A. F. of L. officials.

Mooney and Billings, together with Mrs. Mooney, Edward D. Nolan and Israel Weinberg, were charged with bombing a preparedness parade in San Francisco on July 22, 1916. Several persons were killed. The trials were held at the height of war hysteria. Mooney was found guilty of first degree murder and sentenced to be hanged. Mrs. Mooney was acquitted on July 27, 1917. Billings was sentenced to life imprisonment. Weinberg, the jitney driver, was acquitted and Nolan was finally released. Governor Stephens committed Mooney's sentence to life imprisonment.

After the court record of the Mooney trial was closed it was discovered that Oxman, the "Oregon cattle man," star witness for the prosecution, committed perjury. He was arrested, but was acquitted by Supreme Judge Griffin, who held, in effect, that if a precedent were established to try a witness for perjury after a case closes, this practice would clog the courts.

Mrs. Kidwell, another star witness for the prosecution and a notorious character, confessed to the frame-up.

During all these years organized labor has insisted that the Mooney trial was marked by perjury, and that he should be pardoned. The prosecution has repeatedly been challenged to try him on other first-degree counts.

Efforts to have the State Supreme Court order a new trial on the ground of perjury have failed because of a rule in this state that applications for a new trial must be based on the record of the case. As the charges were proven after the record was closed and Mooney sentenced, the record contains no reference to the perjuries.

ALL HAIL TO FIVE-DAY WEEK!

THE WALL STREET INDICATOR ("Devoted to Constructive Finance")

A five-day working week!

This may sound revolutionary, but it is understood that it is favored by the American Federation of Labor—and why not?

Many of the old-fashioned business men and probably all the economists and sociologists may even regard the idea as scandalous because, in their opinion, it would promote idleness. But there is a larger problem involved.

We are producing much more than we are able to consume.

Consumption is determined to a large extent by the higher wage scale and certainly lower prices would result if we continue to add to surplus. What would be more simple than to have organized labor agree and secure a five-day working week! We would add not very much to the surplus and the buying power would still exist.

In fact a four-day or a three-day working week would be even more remedial.

All hail to the glorious machine age; it has produced gaiety where we thought only drabness could exist.

We may appear crazy, but it is like unto that of the fox.

TRADE IS MENACED BY LOW-WAGE PLAN

London, England, Oct. 22.—A large section of the British press is backing employers in a campaign for lower wages. Trade unionists are asking how business can improve if the workers' purchasing power is reduced.

The employers openly admit they can not sell their present output, but have the insolence to say, "Give us more work and then we will be able to sell it, but they fail to tell us where or to whom they will sell," says Man Wise, issued by the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics.

"Gratuities is a serious obstacle to a living wage, objective of all trade unions—as the employer feels this relieves him of the obligation to pay a full wage," the bulletin states.

ALL GROUPS AFFECTED BY FARMERS' PROBLEMS

Los Angeles, Oct. 22.—Farmers' problems affect all other groups of citizens, declared the A. F. of L. convention in authorizing the Executive Council "to consider the farmers' problems and to take such counsel as may be necessary in order to cooperate with farmers' organizations in finding constructive plans and policies and in putting these into effect."

The resolution declared that "the far-reaching economic changes that have necessitated industrial and economic life are reflected in agricultural methods and organization.

"Farmers as individuals have not been generally able to make the necessary plans and adjustments that will enable them to keep pace with the developments and enterprises with the best profit to themselves and to society. Farmers and dwellers must be developed to put farmers in control of the means to enable them to keep pace with the progress of modern civilization and to share in its improvements and benefits. General progress in other industrial groups is in financial and economic straits."

SELL BRITISH TITLES FOR POLITICAL FUNDS

London, England, Oct. 22.—The British Labor Party refuses to join the Conservatives' party in its virtuous howls against Lloyd George, who, when premier, sold British titles to secure political funds. The Laborites say the Tories are tarred with the same brush, and that Premier Baldwin exchanged titles for slush money. This position is sustained by the Sunday Pictorial, a leading Tory newspaper, which Baldwin's government is no exception.

"Of the names of the recipients of honors in the last two and one-half years were placed in parallel columns with the names of those who have given financial subscriptions to the Conservative Party funds, there would be many 'striking coincidences.'"

WHY THEY OPPOSE UNIONS

Chicago, Oct. 22.—The wage scale of union and non-union building trades in this city, printed by the Federation News, official paper of the Chicago Federation of Labor, shows why certain employers oppose trade unions.

The non-union rate for carpenters is $1.10 an hour; the union rate, $1.50. This ratio prevails for cement finishers, gas fitters, hoisting engineers, plumbers and other trades that are not organized 100 per cent.

The greatest difference is in the painters' calling, where the union rate is $1.62½. The non-union rate is as low as 92 cents.

LABOR TO RENEW FIGHT AGAINST CHILD LABOR

Los Angeles, Oct. 22.—Organized labor will intensify its campaign for the Federal Child Labor Amendment and every effort will be made to arouse the conscience of America against the evil of child slavery.

The A. F. of L. convention made this declaration in the closing hours of its annual convention in this city.

The committee exposed the hypocrisy of opponents of the federal amendment, who claim the violates state's rights, and that the various states can remedy the evil. Governors and other public officials who make this plea were shown to be just as active in their opposition to any state legislation against child labor.

"Child labor has increased in 24 out of 29 large industrial cities," it was stated. Eight out of 12 states reported increases.

"It is hardly conceivable that in America, where we pride ourselves on a sense of fair play and decency and a campaign marked by misstatements and misrepresentation could be conducted successfully, especially by opponents of the Federal Child Labor Amendment. In most cases these opponents masquerade as friends of children and in spite of funds at their disposal, in spite of their propaganda and elaborate machinery for spreading misrepresentation, they will fail to keep the nation's childhood in economic bondage."

BUFFALO LOAN SHARKS OPERATE ON NEW PLAN

Buffalo, Oct. 22.—The old-type loan shark in this city has been replaced by four "modern corporations companies," according to a report by the Buffalo Better Business Bureau. The companies are said to be linked up with a loan organization that has headquarters in Atlanta.

The borrower signs an agreement to return in two weeks the original loan plus interest, which is figured at the rate of about 240 per cent. If the borrower can seldom meet this charge, he is carried along, paying the interest every two weeks, and invariably increasing the amount of his loan. The borrower is then sued by one company to another until he has been involved that usually he is forced into bankruptcy.

Threats of exposure have prevented borrowers from rebelling against these methods.

STEEL CARS FAVORED BY ORGANIZED LABOR

Los Angeles, Oct. 22.—Steel cars exclusively in the postal service was called for by the A. F. of L. convention.

"This legislation," the committee reported, "is urgently required to protect the lives of railway mail clerks, many of whom work in antiquated and unsafe wooden cars and are subjected, therefore, to unwarranted hazards."

FIVE-DAY WORK-WEEK SHOULD BE EXTENDED

Los Angeles, Oct. 22.—A universal five-day week is organized labor's goal, declared the annual convention of the A. F. of L.

The proposal was defended from social, economic and industrial standpoints.

"It is no longer a question whether the five-day week can be established, it is established," the committee reported.

"The five-day week is here. It has been established by several A. F. of L. affiliates through negotiation with progressive and open-minded employers.

"We must carry on our work of education until the shorter week is universal. Man was made to earn his bread by the sweat of his brow, but he was not created to be a beast of burden. Our trade union movement has lifted labor from the type of man depicted by Millet, the slant-browed man with the hoe, to the type of citizenship which our workers now give to the nation.

"It has been proven that the reduction in the hours of labor has been accompanied by a material increase in production. The United States Census Bureau states that from 1889 to 1925 the amount produced by the individual worker each day increased as a whole 49 per cent. Perhaps a representative assertion of the general truth is found in the iron and steel industry where, since 1914, per capita production has increased approximately 50 per cent."

UNION RADIO STATIONS WILL BE INVESTIGATED

Los Angeles, Oct. 22.—The A. F. of L. convention authorized the Executive Council to ascertain if it is feasible for organized labor to establish and maintain a chain of radio broadcast stations throughout the country.

"By censorship, as exercised by law and so construed by the Federal Radio Commission," the resolution stated, "big interests are able to control free air and use it for their own interests to the exclusion of the rights and interests of organized labor, and by this action will prevent organized labor from transmitting over the air its rights, interest and action during a crisis, real or created, by this wonderful means of transmission."

WAGE CURVE UP

Washington, Oct. 22.—Employment in manufacturing industries increased one-tenth of 1 per cent from July to August, 1927, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. In the same period pay-roll totals increased 2.1 per cent and per capita earnings increased 2 per cent.

STATE AIDS OPERATORS IN CUTTING OIL OUTPUT

Oklahoma City, Oct. 22.—The State Corporations Commission orders that curtailment of oil in the Seminole field shall continue; production must not exceed 450,000 barrels daily.

The "shooting" of oil wells is prohibited without the consent of Ray M. Collins and an advisory committee who were selected by oil producers. The purpose is to limit oil production that prices may be maintained. The State Corporations Commission is aiding the operators in enforcing their agreement to curtail.

The government ignores this interference with interstate commerce. When 300 organized stone cutters in New York City refused to handle a non-union product, the Department of Justice secured an injunction from Federal Judge Grubb, who ruled that this refusal to work interfered with interstate commerce.

LABOR WOULD CHECK ALIEN SMUGGLING

Los Angeles, Oct. 22.—Endorsement of Senator King's bill that would stop the smuggling of immigrants, who are disguised as seamen, was voted by the A. F. of L. convention.

The bill would require all vessels coming into United States ports to take away with them the same number of seamen as they brought into the country. The bill passed the Senate, but was blocked in the House Immigration Committee.

This system of smuggling is profitable to ship owners, who charge Chinamen as high as $1,100 to land them in this country. The charge for Europeans ranges between $200 and $400. The aliens are brought into the country from their home ports. When they reach an American port they leave the ship.

It is significant that some members of the House Immigration Committee who loudly proclaim against "boatloads of immigrants" were lukewarm toward the King bill.

SLICKNESS NOT EDUCATION

Chapel Hill, N. C., Oct. 22.—"Slick superficiality, a thing in many ways thinly covers a vast amount of ignorance," is passing for education, said Dr. Frederick M. Haines, distinguished physician, at the University of North Carolina.

"Our graduates know too much about everything and far too little about some one thing," said Dr. Haines.

OLD-AGE PENSION PLAN WILL BE INVESTIGATED

Los Angeles, Oct. 22.—Old age pensions will be investigated by the A. F. of L. Executive Council and a report made at the next convention. This action was ordered by the convention.

Two old-age pension resolutions, one by the International Typographical Union delegation—were presented to the convention.

Both resolutions considered this question, but it was deemed advisable to have the latest information before action is again taken.

TOBACCO PRICES LOW; LESS WILL BE PLANTED

Danbury, N. C., Oct. 22.—Tobacco growers in this section have called a strike. They object to low prices paid them by tobacco manufacturers and they agree to withhold this year's product from the market. Next year they will cut their acreage in half.

The tobacco growers are forced to dispose of the finest crop in 15 years at prices 50 per cent less than the cost of growing. They are discussing action against the manufacturers under the Sherman anti-trust law, but they are not overlooking their economic power.

LOW WAGE FOR SERVICE

Chicago, Oct. 22.—In a railroad clerks' wage hearing here it was shown that a freight cashier at Oshkosh, Wis., is paid $31.20 a week. He handles more than a million dollars annually.

UNIONS URGED TO INVESTIGATE BEFORE MAKING WILD CHARGES

Los Angeles, Oct. 22.—The A. F. of L. convention rejected a State Federation of Labor resolution which sweepingly declared that this country "had dispatched a fleet of warships and troops to China for the purpose of combining with Great Britain for the purpose of combining with Great Britain for the purpose of combining with Great Britain